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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health & Sanitary Condition

FOR THE YEAR

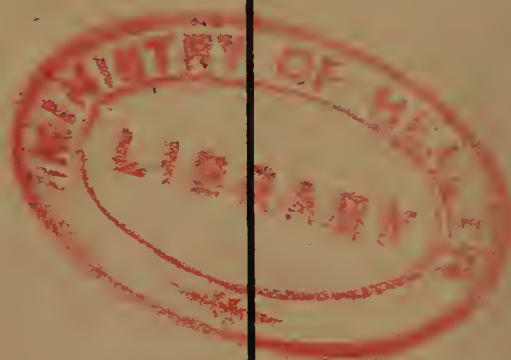
1937

BY

W. H. SQUARE

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health



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TO THE
Rural District Council
OF
Wing

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1937.

It is regretted that this Report could not be circulated earlier—the delay is again owing to the late receipt of certain statistics necessary for the compilation hereof.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. H. SQUARE, M.O.H.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 36,458.

Population, 1931 census, 6,838.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,140.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 2,132.

Rateable value (reduced), £29,429.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £110/17/-.

OFFICERS (Public Health).

W. E. Thompson, Sanitary Inspector,

P.A.S.I., A.R. San. I.

W. H. Square, Medical Officer of Health,

L.R.C.P. and S.

J. Macarthur, M.R.C.V.S., Meat Inspector.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.
Births :	Illegitimate	1	0	1
	Legitimate	96	39	57
Still Births	- - -	-		1
Deaths :		91	44	47

There have been no deaths from puerperal causes.
Deaths of infants under one year of age, i.e. :—

Legitimate 4, Total 4.

Deaths from measles (all ages), nil.

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages), nil.

Deaths from diphtheria 1.

Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 1.

Deaths from scarlet fever, nil.

Births during year have increased by 29 and the deaths have increased by 6.

I do not consider it necessary to paragraph each infectious disease, as all the necessary information is given in Table II, and all information regarding Tuberculosis is detailed in Table III.

GROVE HOSPITAL.

During the year ended 31st March, 1938, the following cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Grove:—

Scarlet Fever 11

Diphtheria 4

Other cases 1.

The Grove Hospital, which until the 31st March, 1934, belonged jointly to the Wing R.D.C. and the Linslade U.D.C., was transferred by Order of the Minister of Health made under Section 279 of the Public Health Act, to the North Bucks Joint Hospital Board, on which this Council is represented by two Members.

The Hospital was certainly too large for the Rural District of Wing and the Urban District of Linslade, to which Councils it formerly belonged. It was anticipated that by the addition of the Cubicle Block, Grove Hospital would accommodate all Infectious cases from the nine Districts of North Bucks. This is not the case however, as during the year to 31st March, 1936, no less than 37 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Aylesbury under a mutual agreement made between the Hospital Boards in the County.

Except in time of epidemics, the Grove Hospital should be able to accommodate all Infectious cases arising in the District of the North Bucks Joint Hospital Board, with its population of 63,000.

There is a Resident Matron, Staff Nurses and Probationers, and other Nurses are obtained from London Homes as required.

The extensions now completed provide increased Nurses' accommodation, improvements to the Staff Rooms and the Matron's House, a Drying Room, improvements to the Laundry, and a new Block containing eight Cubicle Wards, one of which is used as an Emergency Operating Theatre. The Porter's Lodge and a splendid new Nurses' Home have recently been built.

A permanent supply of water is obtained by an extension of the Linslade U.D.C. main near the Cedars School Playing Field. This is a wise step, as the importance of a plentiful supply of water to an Isolation Hospital cannot be over emphasised.

The present well, pump and engine provide a doubtful standby in case of emergency.

The drainage of the Hospital is dealt with by an up-to-date Filtration Plant.

In the event of a serious Epidemic, it is understood that arrangements have been made with neighbouring Boards for the transfer of cases surplus to accommodation.

Every precaution is taken with regard to the disinfecting of houses from which the Patients have been removed.

The Hospital is thoroughly well-equipped, and is up-to-date in every way.

The possibility of now segregating cases for Observation purposes should effectively minimize the possibility of reinfection, of cases being discharged until absolutely cured, or admitted to the Wards unless absolutely necessary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Scarlet Fever has been less prevalent in the District during the year. The cases have mostly been of a mild type (see Table II).

Diphtheria cases have been below normal.

Any case of Small Pox arising in this District will be nursed in the North Bucks Small Pox Hospital at Woughton.

The General Nursing is carried out by the District Nurses.

There are four practising midwives resident in the district, and there are several others just outside the boundary.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary conveniently situated at Aylesbury and Bletchley, and the patients can be admitted to the Bucks and Berks Sanatorium.

Children and adults can be admitted to the Royal Bucks Hospital at Aylesbury for general medical and surgical treatment, and a scheme is still in force in most villages by which the people can claim admittance and treatment to the Hospital by contributing a small sum per week, which is collected by voluntary workers. Increased numbers continue to avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from the scheme.

In the event of cases of Puerperal Fever, or Puerperal Pyrexia, arrangements have been made for special investigation in consultation with the Medical Officer appointed by the County. The nearest Hospital for these cases is at Headington, Oxon.

Antitoxin and disinfectants are supplied by the Council in all cases of infectious disease.

A supply of Diphtheria Phophylactic can be immediately obtained for active immunization.

The General Ambulance, which is run by St. John Ambulance Brigade Joint Committee, is in constant use, and the Contributory Scheme is proving a great boon throughout the District.

HOUSING.

The Housing conditions throughout the district are still capable of improvement, and I am very glad that the Council have improved the housing accommodation in many of the Parishes.

Overcrowding is not serious in this District. A survey has been carried out, from which it appeared that there were less than 20 cases, mostly of a mild type. These were mainly in Council Houses, and steps have been taken to abate the trouble wherever possible.

Further Schemes will shortly be completed which should deal adequately with all serious cases of overcrowding, although some of the houses to be erected will be required for the accommodation of persons displaced from unfit houses.

With your Sanitary Inspector, 2/3rds of the working class houses in the District have been inspected and reported upon. The great majority are capable of being rendered fit for habitation at a reasonable cost.

WATER SUPPLY.

At Wing the water is obtained by a boring into the Lower Greensand. It is bored 120 feet from the surface. The rest level of the water is 18ft. from the surface. The well itself is in Linslade Parish close to the London Midland and Scottish Railway line at Southcourt Bridge.

An electric motor has been installed in place of one of the old gas engines.

The average yield of water is 2,400 gallons per hour. It is pumped a distance of a mile and a half to a reservoir situated on high ground just inside the Wing boundary, near Burcott Farm belonging to the Bucks County Council.

The water is exposed to the air and filtered through sand filters which extract the iron; it is then stored in a reservoir of a capacity of 66,000 gallons, whence it gravitates round the village.

More than three-quarters of the village is connected up, and during the past year new and additional properties have been connected.

Cattle drinking troughs are also supplied by it. The arrangements made to supply Liscombe House in the Parish of Soulbury, and parts of Mentmore, appear to be satisfactory. No signs of any shortage.

At Cheddington there is a public water supply; the well is situated at West End Hill. The water is pumped into a reservoir holding 40,000 gallons and it is supplied to the village by gravitation through three and four inch mains, stand-pipes being fixed in the village.

The Cheddington Water Works supply many more houses than in previous years and further connections are constantly being made. The Bore Hole, which is some 340 feet below the surface, was shelled out in 1928, and the Rising Main, Cylinder, Bucket and Valves renewed and a new pump installed, which now provides a satisfactory supply with far less labour. The Electric Motors installed are very satisfactory.

The Council's Water Supply at Ivinghoe has been taken over by the Bucks Water Board. The supply is good and usually sufficient to meet the needs of the Parish.

At Great Brickhill there is a main water supply originally installed by the Newport Pagnell Rural District Council on a site belonging to the Duncombe Estate.

The Undertaking has since been transferred to the Bletchley Urban District Council subject to a continued supply being rendered to Great Brickhill, which Parish was transferred to the Wing Rural District under the Bucks Review Order.

The water is drawn from a spring and pumped to a reservoir. The quality is of a high standard.

A number of standpipes is erected in the Parish, but many houses are connected up with the mains and the number is increasing each year.

In other villages the water is from wells.

Samples of well water for analysis have been taken as necessary.

Although the water supplies of the District have caused but comparatively little concern, it is, from medical view-point, gratifying to know that a piped supply will within the next few years, be available throughout the whole District. From the Council's view-point it appears regrettable that the Scheme for the District recently adopted could not mature, owing to the formation of a Joint Water Board which is now engaged on a large scheme to provide practically the whole of the Rural Districts of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow and Wing.

I am pleased, however, that it has not been necessary to disturb the present supplies to Cheddington, Great Brickhill and Wing. These three schemes work very satisfactorily. The Cheddington Works have recently been put into good order, and a little expenditure on the Wing Works is anticipated to improve the power plant. This supply should function satisfactorily for a great number of years.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

At Wing, the outfall works, consisting of septic tanks and duplicate filters, are situated on the north side of the village.

A very satisfactory effluent is obtained. A small portion of waste land here is used for broad irrigation on which suitable crops are grown.

The Wing Park Sewage Disposal Works to serve the south side of the village prove adequate and satisfactory.

A small Filtration Plant has been constructed to deal with the Sewer Outfall at Burcott, Wing.

The scavenging is carried out by contractors.

At Cheddington the village is sewered and the sewage gravitates towards the south end of the village, where it is treated by broad irrigation over four acres of land, the land being used for the growing of mangolds and other suitable crops.

All existing earth closets are being converted to the Water Carriage system wherever possible.

Further consideration is being given to improving the irrigation works.

The scavenging is undertaken by the Mentmore Estate.

In the majority of the villages the pail closet system is in use. At Wing and Great Brickhill the Council undertake the cleansing of same.

A system of Refuse Collection is operative at Wing and Great Brickhill, and minor schemes at Aston Abbots, Pitstone, Soulbury and Marsworth.

Several of the remaining villages have recognized dumps where householders may dispose of their rubbish, but generally speaking this is rather unsatisfactory and a District Scheme or alternatively village schemes for regular collection and adequate disposal are desirable.

Regular treatment of the Wing Refuse tip by the British Ratin Co. has very successfully dealt with the rat nuisance.

Small Filtration Plants have been constructed to deal with the Wingrave sewer outfalls.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are schools in the following villages:—

Stoke, Soulbury, Wing, Mentmore, Cheddington, Marsworth, Pitstone, Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe Aston, Dagnall, Slapton, Edlesborough and Aston Abbots.

I have visited the Elementary Schools in the District during the year and have found the out-door offices in a good condition generally. Certain repairs of a minor character required at the various Schools have been reported to the County Council, and have received attention.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

There are 135 Registered Dairies in the District, representing about 1,750 cows, for the production and wholesale or retail distribution of milk. These are regularly inspected and are generally found to be kept in good order, although many of the premises require structural improvement. Improvements have been made to a number of Cowsheds following action by the Council.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are nine Slaughter Houses, four being at Wing, one at Pitstone, one at Edlesborough, one at Cublington and two at Wingrave.

They are all kept in good condition and white washed regularly.

Various inspections were made, and minor defects found and remedied

Your Veterinary Inspector, appointed under the P.H. Meat Regulations, 1924, Colonel J. Macarthur, has made upwards of 200 visits on meat inspection during the year. A very small number of carcasses has been condemned, but it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case.

The sale of unfit meat in the District is now practically unknown.

BAKEHOUSES, ETC.

Number in District 7.

Number of Inspections 7.

Defects found 1.

Defects remedied 1.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Number in District 21.

Number of Inspections 42.

Defects found nil.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There is a Flour Mill, and a Brick Yard at Wing.
 Removal of animals improperly kept, nil.
 Plans submitted during the year 70.
 Visits to Infected Houses 7.
 Houses disinfected 6.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

Total No. of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	476
No. of Inspections made for the purpose	1,228
No. of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	326
No. of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	6
No. of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	326
No. of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	170
Action under Statutory Powers:—	
Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notice was served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) by Owner	nil
(b) by Local Authority	2
Proceedings under Public Health Acts	16
Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(2) Houses Demolished	17
Number of new houses erected during the year:—	
(a) Total (including Nos. given separately under (b)	18
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	

(1) by the Local Authority	nil
(2) by other bodies or persons	nil

GENERAL.

General remarks as required by the Minister of Health circular not mentioned elsewhere in this report.

The district is mainly agricultural, there being but few factories to give employment to the people of the district.

There is a private Nursing Home in the adjoining district for expectant mothers.

Illegitimate and homeless children are few, and any necessitous cases brought to the notice of the Guardians Committee receive special consideration and care.

The Public Assistance Institution at Aylesbury is used by this District for the admission of Public Assistance cases, whether mental defectives, aged, unmarried mothers, or other necessitous cases.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the adjoining district of Leighton Buzzard.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Aylesbury and at Bletchley. There is also a treatment centre at Northampton for Venereal Diseases and a well-equipped General Hospital at Aylesbury.

There is no difficulty in obtaining the use of an Ambulance, there being one for infectious cases at Linslade, and also the St. John Ambulance for general cases. The Council have no Clinics, those serving the District being under the control of the County Council.

There is an Infant Welfare Centre in several of the villages.

There are no premises in the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Bacteriological and Chemical examination of food is carried out by the County Council as and when necessary.

There has been no necessity to take proceedings with regard to smoke abatement nuisance.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1937 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Nett.		Number. 5	Rate. 6	of Non- residents registered in the District. 7	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. 8	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.
		Number. 3	Rate. 4					Number. 9	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 10	
1	2			5	6			9		
1931	5427	66	12.1	81	14.9	1	18	1	15.1	98
1932	5460	63	11.5	71	13.0	1	18	1	15.0	88
1933	5454	70	12.8	68	12.4	5	16	1	14.3	79
†1934	6838	73	10.6	76	10.0	0	17	4	54.8	96
1935	6850	83	12.1	97	14.1	0	22	4	48.2	119
1936	6840	69	10.0	102	14.9	0	12	2	24.1	114
1937	6850	97	14.0	94	13.7	3	26	4	41.2	120

† District enlarged by addition of Aston Abbots, Cublington and Wingrave from Aylesbury Rural District and Great Brickhill from Newport Pagnell Rural District

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1937.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards	
Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	9	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	1	1	...	...	9
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peurperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox (mild cases) ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	23	..	1	1	...	1	5	4	1	4	4	1	1	12

TABLE III.
Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1937.

Age-Periods.					New Cases.				Deaths.			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	I	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	I	2	...	..	...	...	...	...
55	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	..
Totals	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	I	I	2	...	...

I am not aware of any new cases other than have been notified.

To my knowledge there are no Tuberculous employees in the Milk Trade.

No action has been taken by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 172.

Deaths belonging to and registered in District.

TABLE IV.—1937.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.
Other Liver diseases .....	...	I
Other digestive diseases	I	I
Ac. and Chr. nephritis	I	...
Puerperal sepsis .....	...	...
Other puerperal diseases .....	...	...
Con. Deb. Prem. Birth, etc. ...	I	I
Senility	2	5
Suicide	I	...
Other violence .....	...	I
Other defined diseases	6	I
Ill defined or N.K.	2	...
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	...	I
Diabetes .....	...	...
Cerebral haem., etc. ....	...	4
Heart disease	16	10
Aneurysm .....	...	...
Other circ. diseases	I	I
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia—all forms	3	2
Other respiratory diseases ....	...	2
Peptic ulcer	I	...
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...
Appendicitis .....	...	I
Cirrhosis of liver .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...
Whooping cough .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Influenza	3	3
Enceph. lethargica .....	...	...
Cerebro Spinal fever .....	...	...
Tub. of resp. system .....	...	2
Other tuberculosis .....	...	...
Syphilis .....	...	I
G.P.I. tables, etc. ....	...	...
Cancer	4	6
All causes	44	47

Non-Residents registered in District.

Violent Deaths	2	I
----------------------	---	---

